

Appl. No. 10/004,131
Amdt. sent October 9, 2006
Response to Notice of Allowance August 29, 2006

PATENT

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 - 5. (Canceled)

1 6. (Proposed under Rule 312): A storage system comprising:
2 a set of plural disk drive units;
3 a plurality of disk array controllers coupled to at least one computer via a
4 network; and
5 a first connection unit coupled between said set of plural disk drive units and said
6 disk array controllers, said first connection unit configured such that any of said disk array
7 controllers can communicate with any of said disk drive units;
8 a plurality of file servers each comprising a first circuit accepting access from a
9 computer through a file I/O interface; and
10 a second connection unit coupled between said set of plural disk drive units and
11 said file serves, said second connection unit configured to ~~directly~~ connect any one of said file
12 servers to any one of said disk drive units absent the presence of any of said disk controllers.

7. (Canceled)

1 8. (Previously Presented): A storage system according to claim 6 wherein a
2 second circuit of each of said disk array controllers is a fibre channel controller.

9 and 10. (Canceled)

1 11. (Previously Presented): A storage system according to claim 6 wherein
2 some of said plural disk drive units holds said identification information in a specific storage
3 area in the disk drive unit.

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1 12. (Previously Presented): A storage system according to claim 11 wherein
2 each of said disk array controllers searches identification information in the specific storage area
3 in some of said plural disk drive units, and determines which of said plural disk drive units is
4 accessible based on the detected identification information.

1 13. (Previously Presented): A storage system according to claim 12 further
2 comprising a disk pool management unit coupled to said plural disk drive units and a
3 management console, wherein said disk pool management unit stores identification information
4 identifying at least one of said disk array controllers into the specific storage area in some of said
5 plural disk drive units based on an input from said management console.

14. (Canceled)

1 15. (Previously Presented): A storage system according to claim 12 wherein
2 each of said disk array controllers performs the determination during system initialization.

16. (Canceled)

1 17. (Previously Presented): A storage system according to claim 6 wherein
2 one of said disk array controllers comprises a first circuit accepting access from a computer
3 through a block I/O interface.